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Study by Justice Dept. Concludes Ray Was Alone in Dr. King Killing

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2 (UPI)—After investigating the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for several months, the Justice Depatment has decided that James Earl Ray acted alone in killing the civil rights leader, sources said today.

The conclusion is contained in a 148-page report prepared by Michael Shaheen, director of the department's office of professional responsibility, the sources said.

The investigation was ordered last April 26 by Edward H. Levi, then Attorney General who wanted to know whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation had conducted a thorough and honest investigation into Dr. King's 1968 slaying in Memphis.

Mr. Shaheen's report was said to have ruled out a conspiracy in the killing.

The publication of the report has been withheld, the sources said, e interfering with a proposed House investigation of the assassinations of Dr. King and President John F. Kennedy.

The report is expected to be released eventually, however, and one source said that Griifin B. Bell, the new Attorney General, was considering whether todo so immediately. Mr. Shaheen declined to comment.

The investigation followed a preliminary, five-month inquir conducted by J. Stanley Pottinger, Assistant Attorney General in charge of civil rights. Mr. PPottinger's investigatin did not completely exonerate the F.B.I. which under the directorship of J. Edgar Hoover had harassed Dr. King.

Mr. Shaheen was asked by Mr. Levi to determine whether the bureau could have been involved in any way in Dr. King's death and whether any new criminal prosecutions were warranted.

Mr. Ray, a fugitive from a Missouri prison, pleaded guilty to slaying Dr. King and was sentenced to 99 years inprison. Since then, he has said he should get a new trial on the ground that his lawyer talked him into entering the guilty plea. He was captured in London traveling on an alias with two Canadian passports.

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